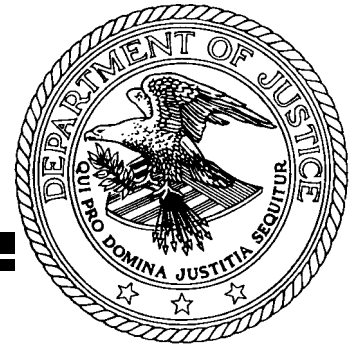


NEWS RELEASE



***OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
San Diego, California***

***United States Attorney
Carol C. Lam***

For Further Information, Contact: Assistant United States Attorney John N. Parmley (619)557-6198

For Immediate Release

NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - March 26, 2004

United States Attorney Carol C. Lam announced today the filing of a superseding indictment against OMAR ABDI MOHAMED, the President of the Western Somali Relief Agency. The nine-count superseding indictment alleges that OMAR ABDI MOHAMED made multiple material false statements and omissions during his May 2002 naturalization interview. The original indictment alleged that during that interview, OMAR ABDI MOHAMED falsely told immigration officials that the Western Somali Relief Agency never received funds, was an entity in name only, and lacked sufficient funds to send even two boxes of blankets to Somalia.

The indictment alleged that these statements were false in that between December 1998 and May 2001, the Western Somali Relief Agency received \$326,238 from the Global Relief Foundation, an organization which the United States Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Asset Control (OFAC) designated a Specially Designated Global Terrorist on October 18, 2002. The superseding indictment alleges

that these statements were additionally false in that OMAR ABDI MOHAMED also received \$5,000 from the Al-Haramain Foundation. On March 11, 2002, OFAC also designated certain branches of the Al-Haramain Foundation a Specially Designated Global Terrorist.

The superseding indictment further alleges that OMAR ABDI MOHAMED falsely claimed he had been employed by SAY San Diego (an area youth organization), the San Diego City School District, and Masjidul Taqwa (a local mosque). This statement is alleged to be false in two respects. First, although OMAR ABDI MOHAMED claimed that he worked for Masjidul Taqwa from August 1995 through February 1997, in fact, he never worked there. Second, OMAR ABDI MOHAMED failed to state that he was also employed by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Ministry of Islamic Affairs, Endowments, Da'wah and Guidance from March 1994 through January 2004.

According to the superseding indictment, OMAR ABDI MOHAMED also falsely told immigration officials that he had seven children, despite the fact that at the time of the interview, the defendant had an eighth child, Zuhair Omar Mohamed, who had been born on December 19, 2001, in New South Wales, Australia.

Finally, the superseding indictment alleges that OMAR ABDI MOHAMED, who is a Legal Permanent Resident of the United States, possessed his Permanent Resident card on the date of his arrest, January 22, 2004, knowing that the card was obtained by fraud.

United States Attorney Lam said, "Our immigration officials have the right to expect that the information provided in immigration applications is accurate and truthful. People who knowingly submit false information should be on notice that they will be prosecuted."

OMAR ABDI MOHAMED is scheduled to be arraigned on the superseding indictment on March 29, 2004 at 11:00 a.m. before United States District Court Judge John A. Houston.

DEFENDANT

Omar Abdi Mohamed

SUMMARY OF CHARGES

Number of Counts: Nine

Violations: Title 18, U.S.C. §1546(a) - False Statements in Connection with Immigration Application
Maximum penalty of five years imprisonment and/or a \$250,000 fine.

Title 18, U.S.C. § 1015(a) - False Statements in Matter Relating to Naturalization.
Maximum penalty of five years imprisonment and/or a \$250,000 fine.

Title 18, U.S.C. §1546 - Possession of Entry Documents Obtained by Fraud
Maximum penalty of five years imprisonment and/or a \$250,000 fine.

AGENCY

Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security
Federal Bureau of Investigation

An indictment itself is not evidence that the defendant committed the crimes charged. The defendant is presumed innocent until the Government meets its burden in court of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.